

Reagan's move is barbaric, says Moscow



Reagan... decision

Russia warns of a neutron bomb reprisal

RUSSIA yesterday denounced President Reagan's decision to build neutron warheads for artillery shells and short-range missiles as an "extremely dangerous and barbaric" threat to world peace—and indicated that the Soviet would retaliate with a neutron arsenal of its own.

The furious Russian reaction—in which the White House was accused of "cannibalistic" instincts—came less than 24 hours after Washington's announcement that the U.S. is to press ahead with its neutron programme.

The official Soviet news agency, Tass, reflecting Kremlin opinion, described the neutron warhead—designed to kill people by intense radiation, with minimal damage to buildings—as "the most inhuman type of weapon of mass annihilation."

Then came the hint that Russia would launch a comparable programme.

The news agency warned that the Soviet Union "cannot remain an indifferent bystander and will have to respond to the challenge in a manner demanded by the security of the Soviet people and their allies."

Russia's President Brezhnev said in April, 1978, after the then U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, deferred production of neutron weapons, "that Russia, too, will not begin production... so long as America does not do so."

Yesterday's statement by the Soviet news agency indicated that Brezhnev's pledge is now null and void.

The Soviet news agency, accused U.S. strategists of planning to build up a store of neutron weapons then "wrest consent" from the NATO allies to station them in Western Europe.

IN WASHINGTON, Secretary of State Alexander Haig warned that producing neutron weapons would spark off a storm of protest in Western Europe.

But Mr Haig lost out to Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger who argued that the U.S. should not allow European political considerations to dominate decisions.

Mr Haig retorted that the neutron decision would have

By MICHAEL MCGOVERN
In New York

serious effects on American relations with Europe, where already there is growing opposition to planned deployment of new American nuclear missiles in 1983.

A White House spokesman said yesterday America's European allies were consulted about the neutron weapon decision, but he refused to describe their reactions.

The spokesman said Mr Reagan had insisted that the weapons be stockpiled at top-secret sites in the U.S., and any deployment in Europe would be carried out only after talks with the Allies.

'Maniacal'

In London President Reagan's decision was attacked by Labour leader Michael Foot, but praised by a leading Tory.

Mr Foot said Labour was "deeply hostile" to neutron weapons and accused Mr Reagan of taking the decision without consulting European Governments.

Mr Foot said the neutron arsenal "could lead us further towards the maniacal idea of so-called limited nuclear warfare."

Mr Anthony Buck, chairman of the Tory back-bench defence committee, hailed the decision—saying it would help offset the Warsaw Pact's massive superiority in tanks.

This chilling —but vital evil

By DENNIS LEHANE

THE IDEA of a weapon that can kill human beings efficiently and cleanly while causing little damage to buildings is a chilling one.

Russia has been quick to condemn President Reagan's decision, and in Britain, Opposition leader Michael Foot also criticised the move.

The neutron bomb is a moral evil, its opponents charge, different in kind from existing nuclear weapons, because it kills people but leaves buildings largely intact.

Well, so does the bow and arrow.

The neutron weapon is for Western Europe today what the English long-bow was for Henry V and his Army at Agincourt in 1415.

It is a weapon of chilling efficiency and destructive power which counter-balances the enemy's superiority in sophisticated armour.

It is dangerous nonsense to suggest that the neutron bomb was developed as a weapon of mass destruction.

Blast

Both Super Powers already have enough existing nuclear weapons to wipe out the world's population many times over.

The neutron bomb is an anti-tank weapon for tactical use against massed concentrations of enemy tanks.

It is designed to kill soldiers in combat. NOT for use against civilian targets.

It kills by intense radiation, and has a low blast effect, which is why it can kill and disable soldiers inside their own tanks without damaging the tanks.

But compared to existing



Michael Foot... critic

nuclear weapons, it has virtually no fall-out effect, no black mushroom cloud, no poisonous radiation to be carried by the wind.

And within a few days the area where it was used becomes habitable again.

The reason why the Kremlin is so opposed to the weapon is a simple one. It cancels out the Warsaw Pact's massive superiority over NATO forces in Central Europe and significantly reduces the danger of a Soviet-led invasion of the West.

Michael Foot's opposition is predictable. He leads a party that, barring an unexpected miracle, is likely this autumn, to commit itself to unilateral nuclear disarmament and which would probably withdraw from NATO if returned to power.

★ THIS IS
AMERICA

ROSS BENSON in Los Angeles

Fade-out for the Moonies' £20m

A VENTURE into the movie business by the Moonies has hit big trouble and may cost them £20 million.

The controversial religious sect had stars in its eyes when it put the millions into an anti-Communist epic about a glorious amphibious action during the Korean War.

It featured a first-class cast with Laurence Olivier playing General Douglas MacArthur, supported by Jacqueline Bisset and David Janssen.

Insistent rumours of Moonie financing—since officially confirmed—did little to enhance the prestige of the project.

Nor did the reviews. When the film "Inchon" had its premiere in Washington, they were disastrous.

When the Rev Sun Myung Moon's name appeared on the credits as special adviser on Korean matters, there was an uproar.

The effect of all this controversy is that, two years after the filming was completed, no major distributor will touch it. Unlike MacArthur, Inchon has not returned.

The actors who unknowingly sold their talents to The Moonies—officially called the Unification Church—are not complaining that this epic is now the most expensive film never to be shown. They were well paid, after all, for their labours.

For the Moonies, the situation is disastrous.

★ ★ ★

WITH a logic that dazzles, a shopkeepers' association in Arizona is campaigning against the proposed abolition of sales tax.

It argues such a move would put up the price of goods because stores would have to take on extra staff... to cope with the increased demand.

★ ★ ★

IT IS now exactly six months since John Lennon died. His five-year-old son Sean is a remarkable boy, says his mother Yoko Ono.

When she had tears in her eyes recently Sean tried to cheer her up with a joke.

"Hi Daddy—how's the weather up there?" he said. "Oh, snowing is it? Why don't you make a snowball and send it down to us?"

★ ★ ★

BACK in the fifties while his contemporaries were all off studying acting, George Hamilton studied the suits of people like Cary Grant and Fred Astaire.

He learned that no star whose jacket lapels were less



Lana Turner: Pin-up

FORTIES pin-up Lana Turner is seething about the current vogue for remaking her old films.

She refused to see the new "The Postman Always Rings Twice" with Jessica Lange in her old role.

"I really don't know why Hollywood is producing so many pornographic films," she said.

As for the recent TV version "Madame X" with Tuesday Weld, Lana says the final courtroom scene had about as much dramatic impact as a Tupperware party.

than 31 inches, or more than 31 inches, ever lasted. Now you know!

★ ★ ★

THE Guinness Book of Records has a lot to answer for.

Take the case of one Country Bill.

He is already in that tome of the bizarre and freakish as the man who has been buried alive for longer than anyone else.

Now this Country and Western singer from Killeen, Texas, is underground again trying to beat his own record of 134 days.

With him in a vault so small he cannot sit up is a small TV set, a 25-watt light bulb, tubes from above ground which feed him his food, water, and air, and a clutch of telephones.

Ross Benson

Rothmans King Size



the best
tobacco money
can buy

MIDDLE TAR As defined in H.M. Government Tables. DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING: THINK FIRST—MOST DOCTORS DON'T SMOKE